

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2657

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, AO, EG

SUBJECT: SOVIET ACADEMICS ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS: ANGOLA AND  
EGYPT

1. SUMMARY. A SOVIET SPECIALIST ON THE U.S. RESPONDED TO COMMENTS ABOUT ANGOLA BY CITING THE SOVIET SETBACK IN EGYPT. HE ARGUED THAT THE LATTER WAS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT, BUT THAT NEITHER SHOULD BE AN IMPEDIMENT TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. ANOTHER ACADEMIC SOURCE SAID THAT MOSCOW EXPECTED TO "PAY" FOR ANGOLA, BUT IMPLIED THAT ITS EFFECT ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WOULD FADE AWAY OVER A LONGER PERIOD. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH TWO MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET INSTITUTE FOR THE USA AND CANADA (VLADIMIR LUKIN AND BORIS ZANYEGIN), CHARGE COMMENTED ON THE INEVITABLE EFFECTS OF SOVIET ADVENTURISM IN ANGOLA ON U.S. PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, CHARGE MADE THE POINT THAT SOVIETS SHOULD NOT ASCRIBE U.S. EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN SOLELY  
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TO ELECTION-YEAR DOMESTIC POLITICS --AS IS THEIR TENDENCY

--BUT SHOULD ANALYZE MORE SERIOUSLY HOW EVENTS SUCH AS ANGOLA (AND THE CONTINUING PRESENCE THERE OF OVER 12,000 CUBAN TROOPS) HARM EFFORTS TO BUILD A MORE STABLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON.

3. LUKIN RESPONDED, WITHOUT REFERRING TO ANGOLA SPECIFICALLY, THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD SEEK TO KEEP THE MAIN POINTS OF THEIR RELATIONS--THAT IS, DIRECT BILATERAL ISSUES--IN CENTRAL FOCUS, AND SHOULD SEE EVENTS IN THIRD AREAS IN THIS PERSPECTIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, "SOME PEOPLE" IN MOSCOW TAKE THE VIEW THAT EGYPT'S DECISION TO ABROGATE THE TREATY WITH THE USSR WAS THE RESULT OF U.S. PRESSURE, OR AT LEAST OF PROMISES MADE TO CAIRO BY WASHINGTON. THE U.S. PRESS, HE CONTINUED, HAS MADE THIS SAME POINT AND HAS ASSERTED FURTHER THAT THE SOVIET POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY UNDERMINED. BECAUSE THIS IS "TRUE TO SOME EXTENT," HE SAID, "THESE PEOPLE" (IN MOSCOW) ARGUE THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD NOW TAKE A HARDER LINE TOWARD WASHINGTON AND THAT U.S.- SOVIET RELATIONSSHOULD REFLECT THIS SOVIET SETBACK. THE MIDDLE EAST IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE USSR, LUKIN CONTINUED, MUCH MORE SO THAN ANGOLA IS TO EITHER WASHINGTON OR MOSCOW. BUT THE U.S. SPECIALISTS HERE (IMPLICITLY INCLUDING HIMSELF) HAVE ARGUED--NOT ENTIRELY SUCCESSFULLY, HE IMPLIED--THAT THE SITUATION IN EGYPT HAS MORE THAN ONE CAUSE AND THAT U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE SUBJECTED TO TEMPORARY FLUCTUATIONS IN BOTH COUNTRIES' RELATIONS IN THIRD AREAS.

4. IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION, PROFESSOR YURIY GANKOVSKIY, HEAD OF THE PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH SECTION OF THE SOVIET INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL STUDIES, TOLD THE ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT THE SOVIETS WERE AWARE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO "PAY" FOR THEIR SUCCESS IN ANGOLA. "WE'LL PAY WITHIN A YEAR," SAID GANKOVSKIY, THEREBY IMPLYING THAT THE SOVIET ADVANTAGE WOULD BE TEMPORARY, AND THAT ITS EFFECT ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WOULD FADE OVER A FAIRLY SHORT PERIOD. BREMENT

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